

PLUGGING FOR THE PRECIOUS

Marked Activity in Two Leading Camps of the West.

CREEDIE PUSH AND BLACK HILLS BUSTLE

Prospects and Outlook of the Former, and Its Social, Industrial and Political Life—Deadwood's Roster of Projected Improvements—A Mammoth Canal.

AMETHYST, Colo., April 1.—[Special to THE BEE].—The sunny San Luis valley has been recently named, for after one of the most delightful winters, almost unexcelled elsewhere, spring has opened, with her myriads of sweet songsters, making mountain and vale rejoice, while "His Majesty" the sun reigns supreme over all. The climate of Amethyst, Wagon and Sunnyside is something wonderful—4,000 feet up the heights and scarcely any snow all winter.

As the train steams into Wagon, which is the extreme south point of the deadwood, the prospect is one of valley and mountain, with a few houses in the foreground, rapidly leaving it as you enter the West Willow Creek valley and find yourself gradually hemmed in by mountains till you reach South Creede and Amethyst with the flat, occupied mostly by business houses, while the residence portion is on the mesa or bench to the left. Passing these two places, we approach Upper Creede on the south valley, as it has been called, not because of the mortality of the place, but because the sun so seldom enters its confines. But even its ominous title cannot prevent the grandeur and beauty of its scenery. Tall mountains, rising in a sublimity around, dotted here and there with lofty and beautiful trees, white fantastic fountains, made of wind and weather, are portrayed upon the rocks of all ages. In walking up the gulch you suddenly stumble upon some unexpected beauty of scenery, as a rippling stream, a waterfall, a little house situated under some stern old rock, or one of nature's palaces looking deep and cool.

The Founder of Creede.
In this valley is situated the home of U. C. Creede, right at the forks of the two canons. It is a picturesque place built partially of logs and partially of boards, painted green. Not possessing the usual appearance of a house in this country, a fence, at the gate of which is a lamp post. These are also painted green, and with the rush of water coming under a rustic bridge, over a part of the natural landscape. The atmospheric change from Amethyst to Upper Creede is something to be wondered at, for there is so little rise in elevation, for while we are enjoying the rain and sunshine, they have the blustering winds and snow of winter.

Trouble Over Mines.
During the past week Creede has had her first serious trouble over mines. Last Wednesday night a crowd of fifty men belonging to the Miners union went to the New York Chance mine and without proper authority entered the property and ordered the men to quit and come out, which commands were obeyed. The reason of this action was as follows: When the shaft was started Mr. Reynolds, the manager, hired the men at \$3 a day, promising \$3.50 when sufficient depth was gained to warrant the higher rate; that he worked his men on ten-hour shifts, instead of eight; that as a labor organization they proposed that all things should be equal, and the men all on one shift, the camp should receive \$3.50 for eight hours, and also that if a man should attempt to work for less he would be run out of camp.

Two of the strikers, Charles McCollough and C. W. Ravenscroft, presented themselves at the office of the company and at the point of the revolver demanded their pay in full, as they expected their board bill to be deducted. As the results show, these methods also fell short of the desired end—to compel the New York owners to heed the demands for higher wages. On the contrary, it made Mr. Reynolds more aggressive, and he not only declares that he never made a promise to increase the pay, but further that the union men shall ever be employed on his property; that no man or set of men shall dictate to him as to how he shall run his business.

The New York mine is closed indefinitely. 150 men are out of employment. McCollough and Ravenscroft are in Lake City to answer the charge of assault and battery with intent to kill, one man died shot through the heart in the fight which had its origin in this strike, and another badly injured. John Erskine, a miner on the Amethyst, became mixed in a scuffle between Marshall Duncan and the McCollough brothers in a recent Wednesday night. The latter succeeded in firing four shots into Erskine's body, and he was brought in a verdict that the shooting was not justifiable, but District Attorney Strickler read the evidence in a different light and dismissed Duncan. He was again arrested on the charge of murder, but again dismissed, after which he resigned as marshal and thinking "discretion the better part of valor," left the city for a time.

D. H. Moffat has wired that if there is any dissatisfaction evinced by the employees of the Amethyst flat the property shall be closed.

Mining Progress.
An option for ten days has been given on the Senate No. 2 and Missing Link. The figures are \$100,000 for the first ten days for a fourth interest in the two properties. Hermann Schiffer, a wealthy silk manufacturer of New York, holds this option.

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The land lying along the route, inside the United States, and extending from thirty feet in depth and of wonderful fertility wherever touched by water, though there are no springs, and as rain seldom falls no one has paid any attention to it, though now hundreds of acres are being surveyed and filed upon daily under the provisions of the United States land law. The Willacy canal, higher up the Gila, had water let into it on the 20th inst., and it is now irrigating an area of thirty-eight by fourteen miles that a year ago was a barren waste of sand.

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Frank Webster recently bonded the Alpha and Omega to a Chicago man for \$25,000. Webster has shipped ninety tons of ore from this property which gave a return of \$100 per ton.

The Homestake Mining company is making preparations for a novel display at the World's fair. This display will be a mammoth brick of gold, representing a three months run at their mills. This company's output per month is \$250,000. The brick will be worth \$250,000.

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The state mining inspector in his annual report speaks in flattering terms of the Keystone, Tepee, Cross and Glendale districts. "This wonderful district," he says, "is situated near and runs parallel to the tin veins of Harney Peak district, its course being north and south, and generally governed by the fault through which Battle Creek flows; however, at times the tin veins are found intermixed with this now demonstrated porphyry and arsenical gold-bearing zone, which contains gold and silver in considerable quantities, and bears characteristics to that of our Battlewood fine milling ores, the resemblance being more apparent upon closer inspection. The zone is composed of red decomposed quartz of feldspar, schist and decomposed slate, with porphyry inclusions, and is in thickness from fifty to 150 feet, and from which placer miners have, during the many years, extracted and milled by hand stamp mill, many thousands of tons of gold, and in some instances distances to water. That there is a mother lode of great magnitude in this district, is evident from the fact of so much placer gold being found in the many ravines and gulches which drain this portion of the upheaval.

"This district during the past year was vigorously prospected and its full value and extent determined. The boom being caused through the purchase of the Keystone property consisting of many claims. This company has not only erected a twenty-stamp mill with concentrating tables attached, but also appliances being of the latest improved system. From a close examination and personal visits to this section, and after viewing the many valuable properties here exposed it must be considered one of the coming districts of South Dakota, if the proper capital is had to develop the same, but on being worked practically, like many other enterprises of the Southern Hills in past years, it would prove a drone on the gold mine, and the property has been taken up and will be worked with a view of building a quartz mill if the ore will warrant it, an established reality."

The chlorination plant at Rapid City will start up next week. It will handle ore from the Welcome mine. The Welcome Mining company has purchased the three claims owned by the Kimberly Mining company for \$100,000. The purchase includes the Fargo, Garland and Graham lodes.

Pan assays from the old workings of the Anderson-San mine, an average value of \$5 per ton of ore. The same was taken from the face of the ore ledge in the thirty-five-foot cut. Selected samples show a much larger assay, the property has been taken up and will be worked with a view of building a quartz mill if the ore will warrant it.

It has been estimated by Deadwood mining men that the blanket formation, covering an area of eight square miles, contains the aggregate \$50,000,000 tons of ore, averaging \$20 per ton of gold. This estimate does not include the second contact known to exist below the upper. The body of ore is practically inexhaustible. The above figures do not not carry any idea of its magnitude.

A handsome body of ore has been opened up in the Iron Hill. The ore is thickly coated with horn silver. This mine was thought to have been worked out six years ago. It was then selling for \$8 per share, but dropped to \$3.50; since then it has been fluctuating between 15 and 25 cents.